

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Office Action of allowable subject matter in claim 3.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled in favor of new claims 5-8, which better define the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the features recited in claims 5-8 is provided by the original claims. The new claims have been drafted to avoid the issues prompting the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. It is noted that the apparatus claims recite all elements in no-means-plus function format.

Claims 5-8 each recite an inverse proportionality relationship between a binarization threshold and a detected density difference of adjacent pixels. This feature is characterized in the Office Action as distinguishing the invention from the art of record (Office Action, section 3).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amendments contained herein obviate the art-based rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4 and that the subject matter defined by claims 5-8 distinguishes over the art of record. Therefore, allowance of claims 5-8 is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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